

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend page 3, lines 10-17 as follows:

-- The present inventors have now surprisingly found that systemic markers for the function of the immune system are influenced by the administration of (acid) oligosaccharides. This finding opens a new field of application of oligosaccharides, particularly for diseases which at best can be treated by immune system modulation>>.<< By "modulation" or "modulating" is intended an increase or decrease in a particular character, quality, activity, substance or response. In other words, it has surprisingly been found that acid oligosaccharides and neutral oligosaccharides are capable of stimulating the systemic immune response. --

Please amend page 4, lines 1-8 as follows:

-- In particular, it was surprisingly found that the administration of acid oligosaccharide, ~~optionally~~ combined with neutral oligosaccharide, is able to restore Th1/Th2 disbalance and/or maintain a favorable Th1/Th2 balance. It was also found that acid oligosaccharide, ~~preferably~~ in combination with the neutral oligosaccharide is capable of stimulating Th1 response. The present inventors also believe that the administration of acid- and neutral oligosaccharides stimulates Th3, i.e. enhances the regulatory T cell activity. It is perceived that the stimulation of Th1 response is achieved in part by inhibiting Th2 response. --

Please amend page 4, line 10 as follows:

-- Hence, the present invention ~~provides a~~ comprises administering an acid- and neutral oligosaccharide, more preferably acid oligosaccharide and two chemically distinct neutral oligosaccharides in a method for --

Please amend page 4, lines 17-20 as follows:

-- ~~wherein the method comprises the administration of acid oligosaccharide, preferably acid- and neutral oligosaccharide, more preferably acid oligosaccharide and two chemically distinct neutral oligosaccharides.~~ --

Please amend page 5, lines 27-30 as follows:

-- was particularly surprising that the enteral administration of the present oligosaccharides provides the beneficial systemic effects. Hence, the present method preferably comprises the enteral, even more preferably the oral administration of ~~acid oligosaccharide or acid-~~ and neutral oligosaccharide. --

**Please add the following paragraph after the paragraph ending on page 6,
line 25:**

-- The acid oligosaccharide of the present invention has a degree of polymerization between 1 and 250 and is prepared from pectin or alginate. --